Promotion Hopes

Western Coal Mines May Get Federal Aid

OTTAWA (CP) — W. E. Uren, chairman of the Dominion coal board, said yesterday the board is considering the possibility of federal aid to promote the use of Western Canadian coal in electric stations.

He told the Commons mines committee that such aid might be similar to that granted Atlantic provinces under the Maritime Power Development Act.

Under this act the federal government pays a portion of the cost of thermal plants and subsidizes the movement of coal used in such plants.

Discoverer Disappears

WASHINGTON (AP)—The defence department announced Tuesday that Discoverer, the first satellite to achieve a circle around the earth's poles, is no longer in orbit.

Roy Johnson, director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, said it "must be assumed" that the satellite is no longer swinging around the earth.

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Fisherman Swims to Safety in Rough Seas

City Man Survives Icy Ordeal

George Wells, a commercial fisherman who lives at 3830 Palo Alto, has his strength and determination to thank for the fact that he's alive today.

He was handlining for cod in a 12-foot outboard, between Chatham and Discovery Islands Tuesday when his boat was swamped. He spent more than two hours in 39-degree water before reaching safety.

BIG WAVES

The swamping was caused by a sudden series of big waves when the small boat was down at the bow with a load of cod.

"I saw a wave coming," he said, "and turned my back. I didn't realize it was such a big wave. It nearly filled the boat. It was followed by three more —bang, bang, bang.

"Before I knew it, only the bow of the boat was out of the water."

Wearing a heavy windbreaker and rubber boots, Mr. Wells found he could not reach the bow, where his life jacket was. After going under a couple of times, he caught the outboard's fuel tank as it drifted by, and hung on.

With this, he managed to reach the bow of his boat, where he tried to increase the size of an air pocket keeping the craft afloat by lifting the bow.

In the process, he went completely under water a dozen times.

CLUNG TO REEF

Then Mr. Wells noticed that he and the boat were drifting toward a reef that stuck a few inches out of the water off Discovery Island. Discarding his rubber boots, the fisherman swam to the reef, where he clung for more than an hour before the tide ran out and he could walk and crawl ashore.

"My feet were so numb, I didn't even feel the rocks cutting them," he said.

"While I was clinging to the reef an RCMP patrol boat went by, but he was too far away to see me."

COLLAPSED

Once ashore, he collapsed, and it was some time before he gathered strength to walk along a trail that led to the home of Capt. E. G. Beaumont on Discovery.

"Capt. Beaumont was all kindness," said Mr. Wells. "He took me in, gave me dry clothing and filled me with hot soup."

When Mr. Wells had dried out and warmed up, Capt. Beaumont took him in his own boat to the swamped craft, which was bailed out and towed to Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

★ ★ ★

Commercial fisherman George Wells, 3830 Palo Alto, is staying close to home for few days, in his wife, Evelyn's care, to recover from ordeal in icy water after his boat capsized.—(Photo by William Boucher)

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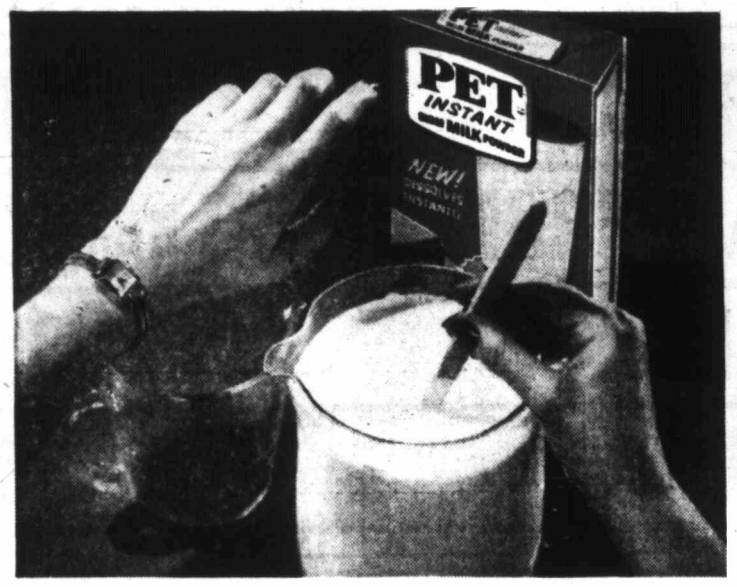

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